GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3311
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2005
DELAY IN DISBURSEMENT OF BENEFITS
Mallikarjunaiah Shri S.;Rajendran Shri P.

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that there is inordinate delay in the disbursement of benefits under the National Family Benefit Scheme and the National Social Assistance Programme;

(b) if so, the total number of cases and the amount outstanding to be disbursed, State-wise, especially in Kerala; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to clear the pending cases and the measures to avoid pendency in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN)

(a): For 2005-06, the first release for the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) which includes two components National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) was made in the month of July, 2005.

(b) & (c): The scheme was transferred to the States/UTs with effect from 2002-03 with a view to provide requisite flexibility to the States/UTs in the choice and implementation of the scheme. The funds for the scheme are provided as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to the States. As such the details regarding the list of cases and the amount outstanding for NFBS and NSAP are not maintained by the Ministry of Rural Development as these fall under the purview of State Governments. In 2004, Kerala had requested for an enhancement of Rs.50 crores for NSAP. The State Government was informed that NSAP is not demand driven and any shortfall in coverage is to be met by the State Government. The NSAP only seeks to supplement the efforts of the State Governments in providing social assistance benefits to poor households in the case of old age and death of primary breadwinner. Further, it was also informed that the States have been given considerable flexibility to spend the funds allocated to them on NOAPS and / or NFBS as per their priorities. It may also be mentioned that in 2004-05, the total ACA for NSAP and Annapurna was enhanced from Rs.679.87 crores to Rs. 1189.87 crores. Accordingly, the allocation for Kerala increased from Rs.1762.99 lakhs to Rs.2872.43 lakhs during 2004-05. For 2005-06 the combined allocation for National Social Assistance Programme and Annapurna for the State of Kerala is Rs.2874.17 lakhs.